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The Library Assistant

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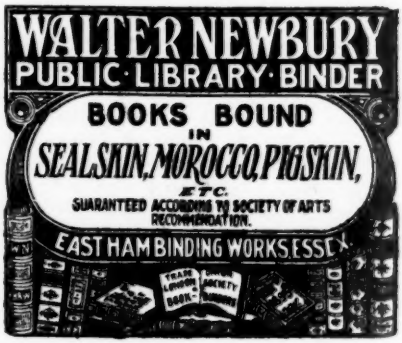

Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 268. NOVEMBER, 1920. Published Monthly

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The November General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **10th November**, at 7.30 p.m., at the Southwark Central Library, Walworth Road, S.E. 17, through the kindness of the Chief Librarian and Curator, Mr. R. W. Mould, F.L.A., who will occupy the Chair. Mr. Frank E. Sandry, F.L.A., of the West Ham Public Libraries, will read a paper on "**The Influence of the Public Libraries Act, 1919.**" It is a very long time since the Association met at the Southwark Central Library, which contains several interesting and valuable collections. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

Mr. R. A. Peddie's Lectures.—We regret that it was not possible to make an earlier announcement of the fact that our friend, Mr. R. A. Peddie, is giving a Course of Lectures on the identification and description of Fifteenth Century Books, prefaced by a sketch of the history of printing to 1500, at the St. Bride Technical Library, Fleet Street. Admission is free, and the last two lectures will be given on Wednesdays, November 3rd and 10th, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Peddie needs no introduction to our readers, and we hope that he will see his way to deliver others of his bibliographical lectures, which some of us remember to have heard with pleasure and profit a few years ago.

A Larger Journal.—We have much pleasure in announcing that the Council has decided to enlarge *The Library Assistant* by four pages, commencing with the January issue. While we hope that this will soon be followed by a still further enlargement, we should like to impress upon members the fact that the ultimate size and usefulness of the Journal will depend upon the measure of their support of the Association. For some long time it has been necessary to restrict our contents to mere announcements of meetings, reports of proceedings and the like. Valuable articles have had to be declined, and altogether the Journal has not been the live force that it ought to be. We sincerely hope, however, that this will be remedied next year, and that we may be able at all events to approximate to our pre-war standard.

Salaries.—As a consequence of our note on Salaries in the August-September issue of the *Library Assistant*, we have received the following encouraging and appreciative letter from Miss M. E. Ahern, the editor of the progressive American journal, *Public Libraries.*

My dear Mr. Sharp,

I want to commend, most heartily, your editorial on salaries in the August-September number of the *Library Assistant*, which has just come to hand. Circumstances which have occurred in our country in the last several months convinced me of what I have long maintained, that library workers have been entirely too meek in their attitude towards salaries for service rendered.

I think it has been a mistake to feel, as undoubtedly many librarians do, that it is somewhat unprofessional, if not personally derogatory to stand up fo. good pay for good work well done. Your editorial has the right ring to it! More strength to your arm, and may the librarians whom you serve, appreciate to the fullest extent the service you are rendering them in thus speaking out! They can best show this appreciation by following your suggestions and coming to your support, not only in this expression of opinion, but in support of your very admirable publication.

Cordially yours,

MARY EILEEN AHERN.

In this connection, we should like to record our approval of the action of the West Ham Council in adding to a reasonable salary the sum of £40 per annum (with war bonus in addition) for the possession of four professional certificates. We hope that other authorities, and especially those whose Scale of Salaries is based primarily on age, will see their way to follow this example. For while we are of opinion that there should be a living wage for all, we certainly think that something over and above should be given for special qualifications.

The New North-Western Branch.—As will be seen elsewhere, the fusion of the North-Western Branch of the L.A.A. and the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians is now an accomplished fact, and one upon which everyone concerned is to be heartily congratulated. We wish the Branch every success, and feel sure that the amalgamation can result in nothing but good, both to the assistants in the North-Western area and to the rest of us throughout the country. Unity is Strength, and the addition of so much new force to our Association is, to say the least, opportune.

The Yorkshire Branch Resolution.—Lest readers of the Yorkshire Branch resolution protesting against the new rates of subscription should be misled, we beg leave to point out that the question of increasing members' subscriptions has received the Council's most careful consideration, and the rates were only

brought into being because by no other means was it possible to place the Association on a sound financial basis. At the time, the whole of the Branch Secretaries were circularised, and all, save the Yorkshire Branch, expressed approval of the Council's proposed action. The matter was further discussed at the last Annual Meeting, when the whole financial question was explained by the Treasurer, and the meeting was in general agreement with the proposals then laid before the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS.

North-Western Branch.

Six Annual Report, 1919-20.

The Council have pleasure in presenting their Sixth Annual Report for the Session 1919-20.

During the past year the event which concerns this Association most directly, and which, we are hoping, will be finally ratified later on in this meeting, is the Amalgamation of the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians. If this is realised, the North-Western Branch will commence next Session with an approximate membership of over 100. Our status will be immeasurably increased, our influence will cover new ground, and the general consolidation of interest and unity of effort cannot fail to obtain a more useful result to the work of the Association and the profession in general.

Membership.—At the close of the session, the Membership stood at 66; comprising 1 Hon. Fellow; 4 Fellows; 30 Members, and 31 Associates; being an increase of 4 on last year.

Meetings.—As far as possible, Meetings have been held in different towns with the object of stimulating interest in our Association, meetings taking place on:—

August 27th,	1919.	Annual Meeting at the Town Hall, Bolton.
October 22nd,	,,	General Meeting at the Meyer Free Library. Bebington.
January 28th,	1920.	General Meeting at the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, Blackburn.
March 17th,	,,	General Meeting at the Public Library, Darwen.
April 14th,	,,	General Meeting at the Public Library, Warrington.
May 26th,	,,	General Meeting at the Public Library and Art Gallery, Bury.

The best thanks of the Branch were tendered by the Council to the Libraries Committees of Bolton; Blackburn; Darwen; Warrington; Bury, and to the Managers of the Meyer Trustees, Bebington; also to the Librarians of the towns visited:—Messrs. Sparke, Harding, Aston, Pomfret,

Harding and Shaw, for their kind assistance in making the local arrangements for the Meetings. Mr. Ashton, Chief Librarian, Blackburn, was also thanked for his kind donation.

Papers and Addresses.—Valuable and interesting papers have been delivered, and the Council desire to thank the Lecturers and those who have helped towards the success of the discussions. The following is a list of the papers and addresses :—

27th August, 1919. "The New School of Librarianship," by Dr. B. A. Baker, M.A., Director, School of Librarianship, London University.

22nd October, 1919. Presidential Address by Mr. James Ross, F.L.A., Liverpool Public Libraries.

28th January, 1920. "The National Libraries of France," by Mr. J. W. Lucas, F.L.A., Bolton Public Libraries.

17th March, 1920. "Libraries and Education in Soviet Russia," by Mr. James Cranshaw, Bolton Public Libraries.

26th May, 1920. Fifteen minute papers :—

"F.L.A.," by Mr. G. R. Axon, Manchester Public Libraries.

"Public Libraries of the future," by Mr. Harold Hamer, Bolton Public Libraries.

"Classification Bogey," by Mr. James Cranshaw, Bolton Public Libraries.

Obituary.—It is with much regret that the Council has to record the death of C. W. Madeley, Esq., F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Warrington, and one of the Vice-Presidents.

Promotions, Honours, Etc.—The Council is pleased to record the successes of Messrs. James Ross and Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley, and Miss M. Gilbert in securing improved positions in the profession, but much regret that such promotion means the severance from our branch of two of them.

Opportunity is also taken to congratulate the several members who were successful in passing the Professional Examinations.

Finance.—The total income for the Session was £9 8s. 0d. Out of this amount £5 17s. 6d was paid to the parent body as proportion of subscriptions due to them. Other expenses amounted to £7 1s. 3½d. As we commenced the session with a credit balance of £3 3s. 0½d., we have now to record a debit balance of 7s. 9d. A considerable number of subscriptions have not been paid for the session and it is hoped these will be remitted at an early date.

On behalf of the Council,

(Signed) JAMES HINDLE, Hon. President.

(Signed) REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, SESSION 1919-20.

Income.	£	s.	d.	*Expenditure.*	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1918-19	3	3	0½	Proportion of subs. paid to Gen. Treasurer ...	5	17	6
Donation (R. Ashton, Esq.)	0	10	6	Stationery	1	13	0
Subscriptions:—				Collinson. Account ...	0	14	9
2 Fellows	0	15	0	Printing	2	8	0
26 Members	6	10	0	Postages	2	5	6½
13 Associates	1	12	6				
Debit Balance	0	7	9				
	£12	18	9½		£12	18	9½

(Signed) REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, (Signed) JAMES CRANSHAW, Hon. Auditor.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the North-Western Branch was held on Friday, October 8th, at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, by kind permission of Henry Guppy, Esq., M.A. There was a large attendance at 3 o'clock when Mr. Guppy conducted the party through the Library, including the recent extension.

Mr. Guppy kindly provided tea and later spoke a few words to the members. He looked upon Librarians as the "high priests of literature" and the "vitalizing link between the books and the public," and he urged all present to work for an ideal—an ideal that should be just out of reach. Mr. Hindle moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Guppy for his stimulating address, his hospitality and his kindness in receiving the Branch, also to the Governors for allowing the Branch to meet at the Rylands Library. Mr. E. C. Wickens (Liverpool) seconded the vote of thanks which was carried with much applause.

At 6 p.m. the Business Meeting was held, Mr. James Hindle presiding. He was supported by Mr. W. G. Fry, F.L.A. (Manchester), and Mr. E. C. Wickens (Liverpool). Close upon fifty members from Wigan, Liverpool, Manchester, Burnley, Bolton, Accrington, Birkenhead, Preston, Wallasey and Bebington attended.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed, and the Annual Report for the year ending September 30th, 1920, was read and approved.

The President, speaking on the future constitution of the Branch, said it was necessary to carry the following resolutions in order to bring in the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians, who had decided to amalgamate with our Association:—

"That the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians be accepted as Members of the Library Assistants' Association, through the North-Western Branch.'

"That the North-Western Branch be divided into Two Divisions: (1) The Bolton and District Division, and (2) The Liverpool and District Division. Each division to retain its own Officers and Committee, and be at liberty to arrange its own internal affairs, such as arrangement of monthly meetings, classes, etc."

"That the North-Western Council be composed of a President, who will be Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, and a Committee consisting of nine representatives from each Division."

"That the President and Vice-Chairman cannot be elected from the same Division in any one Session."

"That the Vice-Chairman automatically becomes President."

"That the North-Western Council convene Quarterly Meetings."

These were seconded by Mr. Hamer and carried unanimously, thus bringing about the much looked for affiliation of the Lancashire Associations.

The result of the election of the Council and Officers for the Session 1920-21 was then read.

President.—Mr. W. G. Fry, F.L.A., Manchester.

Vice-President.—Mr. E. C. Wickens, Liverpool.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. H. Hamer, F.L.A., Bolton.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. R. G. Williams, F.L.A., Bolton.

Council.

Bolton and District.	*Liverpool and District.*
Mr. James Hindle, Blackburn.	Mr. J. A. Stephens, Liverpool.
Mr. T. L. Yates, M.L.A., Bolton.	Mr. A. H. Edwards, Liverpool.
Mr. Harry Edge, Burnley.	Mr. W. J. Randall, Law Lib., Liverpool.
Miss L. Cross, Manchester.	Mr. B. R. Robinson, Bootle.
Mr. Percy Hardman, Wigan.	Miss A. M. Travis, B.A., Liverpool.
Mr. James Cranshaw, Bolton.	Miss D. Yates, Birkenhead.
Mr. Frank Helliwell, Preston.	Mr. J. T. Evans, Liverpool.
Miss E. A. Bamber, Accrington.	Mr. S. A. Firth, Birkenhead.
Mr. G. R. Axon, Manchester.	Mr. H. H. Edwards, St. Helens.

Auditors.—Mr. Harry Fostall, F.L.A., Manchester, and Mr. S. A. Firth.

The new officers were introduced amid applause, and Mr. Hindle vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Fry, who gave his Presidential Address, which will, we hope, be printed in the next number of *The Library Assistant.* He also moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Council. The Honorary Secretary seconded the motion.

Mr. Arthur J. Hawkes, Chief Librarian, Wigan, read an admirable paper on "The Library of Congress Book Classification," which, we hope, will appear at a future date.

After the usual vote of thanks, a most enjoyable and instructive meeting came to a close.

R.G.W.

New Members of the North-Western Branch.

Liverpool and District.

Members.

Bushell, C., Liverpool.
Calvey, Miss W., Liverpool.
Cochran, R., ,,
Davies, Miss G. M., ,,
Edwards, A. H. ,,
Edwards, H. H., St. Helens.
Evans, J. T., Liverpool.
Firth, S. A., Birkenhead.
Greenwood, Miss E. O., Liverpool.
Hammett, H. B., Manchester.
Hardman, P., Wigan.
Hockey, W., ,,
Hopson, B. A., Liverpool.
Huddart, H., Birkenhead.
Jones, Miss M., Liverpool.
Jones, Miss E. K., ,,
Long, Miss A. L., ,,
Lowe, Miss E., Wigan.
Mason, Miss M. E., Birkenhead.
Meakin, G. C. E., Bootle.
Pilling, Miss E. A., Liverpool.
Phillips, W. A., ,,
Prophett, Miss S., ,,
Randall, W. J., ,,
Robinson, B. R., Bootle.
Saxton, Miss E. B., Liverpool.
Stephens, J. A., ,,
Thompson, Miss P. E., ,,
Travis, Miss A. M., ,,
Wallington, Miss D., Warrington.
Wickens, E. C., Liverpool.
Ware, Miss M. J., ,,
Whitehead, H., Manchester.
Wood, Miss E. K., Liverpool.

Associates.

Baker, Miss L. J., Liverpool.
Fairhurst, A. C., Wigan.
Gee, Miss J., ,,
Hill, T., Bolton.
Kneale, Miss D., Birkenhead.
Lambe, Miss M., Liverpool.
Leach, W., Bolton.
Mason, Miss M., Wigan.
Webster, Miss M., Wigan.
Williams, Miss G., Birkenhead.

Yorkshire Branch.

A meeting of the Branch was held at Dewsbury on Thursday, September 30th, by kind permission of Mr. W. H Smith, Chief Librarian. Members assembled at the Public Library at 3 p.m., and were welcomed on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation by Mr. Alderman J. A. Parr, Chairman of the Public Library Committee.

After an inspection of the Library the members visited Crow Nest Park and Museum. Be it noted that certain gentlemen amused the company by their antics on the bowling green. Tea was served in the Town Hall at 5.30 p.m., by kind invitation of the Mayor of Dewsbury, Mr. Alderman W. Naylor, J.P. In the evening a General Meeting was held, when Mr. N. Treliving (Leeds), read a paper on "The Local Collection: what should it consist of?"

Mr. Treliving said that on examination the local catalogues of libraries would be found to consist of (1) Books about the locality; (2) Books by local authors; and (3) Books printed in the locality. The first class should be in the Library, but the second class was not easy to decide. For instance, if a minister preached a sermon, which was afterwards printed, and the minister left the district, the local value of the book was greatly diminished, and in time it became "stock." There was no local value attached to a volume which was merely printed in the district. To be included in the library simply because it was printed in the district was fatuous. Mr. Treliving also touched upon the question of a film collection recording local events, which has been commenced by the City Librarian, Leeds, and was welcome not merely for its value, but also as a sign that the library was desirous of being in actual touch with most matters influencing the public and social life of

the locality. An interesting discussion followed in which Mr. W. H. Smith (Dewsbury), Mr. Procter (Leeds), Mr. Butterfield (Bradford), the President and the Secretary took part.

A Report of the Annual Meeting of the L.A.A. was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. W. Procter), and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. W. Parsons), who attended that meeting as the delegates from the Branch. The delegates were cordially thanked for the admirable manner in which they carried out their mission, and for their exceedingly interesting report. As an outcome of that report the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

> "That, having heard the Report of the Delegates to the last Annual Meeting of the Library Assitants' Association *re* the increase of the Annual Subscription, the Yorkshire Branch resolves to protest against the vote taken on that occasion, feeling that adequate consideration had not been given, and refuses to agree until such time as every Branch has definitely placed this mattter before its members."

Resolutions were also passed extending the thanks of the members to the Mayor of Dewsbury for his generous provision of an exceedingly nice tea, to Mr. W. H. Smith (Chief Librarian), for the permission to hold the Meeting, and the excellent arrangements he had made for same, and to Mr. Treliving for his very interesting paper.

R. W. Parsons,
Hon. Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS.

Miss N. G. Allen (Newark-on-Trent), Miss Binnie Dunn (Literary and Philosophical, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Miss S. F. Ferguson (Kettering), Miss Dorothy Haines (Tottenham), Charles Jackson (Fulham), Miss L. A. Johnson (Fulham), David Nicholls (Woolwich), Miss M. W. Tupman (Fulham), Miss Violet Walker (Stoke Newington), Miss M. Wright (Woolwich).

APPOINTMENTS.

*F. T. Bussey, Norwich, to be a senior assistant, Hackney.

*A. K. Ryde, M.C., formerly of Bournemouth, to be a librarian-in-charge, Croydon.

*F. E. Sandry, librarian in-charge, Croydon, to be a senior assistant, West Ham.

H. G. Sparks, Kensington, to be a senior assistant, Hackney.

* Member, L.A.A.

WEDDING.

Mr. R. W. Parsons, of Bradford, honorary secretary of the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A., was married recently. To mark the occasion the Bradford staff presented him with a canteen of cutlery, and we understand that a similar gift is being made by the Yorkshire Branch. On behalf of the whole Association we wish Mr. and Mrs. Parsons every happiness.

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